

March 2, 2020

The regular meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 5:45 p.m.

Members present: Emily Neal, Ross Hadley, Kirk Johnson, Andy Carlson, Steve Luse, Johanna Bergan, Randy Schissel

Public Comment

- a. Mark Muggli, Chair, Decorah Historic Preservation Commission, gave the annual report and update.

Mayor Borowski requested Item J. Consideration of special event application for Nordic Fest Community Event, July 23-25, 2020 be removed from the consent agenda.

Motion by Hadley, second by Carlson to approve the consent agenda as amended.

- a. Minutes of the February 17, 2020 meeting
- b. Claims
- c. Renewal Class C permit for Don Jose Mexican Restaurant, including Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales
- d. Renewal Class B permit for High, Wide & Handsome, including Sunday Sales
- e. Renewal Class B Beer permit for Toppling Goliath, including Outdoor Service for dates of 05/01-05/03, 05/22-05/26, 06/05-06/07, and 06/10/2020
- f. Renewal Class C permit for Hay Market, including Sunday Sales
- g. **Resolution 3053**, setting a date for a public hearing on an easement agreement with Vesterheim Museum, Mill Street and Mechanic Street for use of public ROW; *Monday, March 16 at 5:45pm*
- h. **Resolution 3054**, setting March 16, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. as the date and time for a hearing on a first tobacco violation for Wal-Mart Store #913
- i. Consider special event application for Helping Services for Youth & Families, Holiday Lights & Fundraising Event; Pulpit Rock Campground; November 25, 2020 – December 25, 2020
- j. Consider special event application for Nordic Fest Community Event; Downtown Decorah; July 23 – 25, 2020 – various locations - **Removed**
- k. Consider special event application for Decorah Pride Event; Downtown Decorah, parade and event area; Saturday, May 9, 2020 – 3:00pm – 7:00pm

Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Item J. Consideration of Nordic Fest Special Event Application July 23, 25, 2020 was opened for discussion. Mayor Borowski requested separate consideration due to the request to move the beer garden to Water St. – Vesterheim Museum block.

Chris Johnson, President/CEO, Vesterheim, stated they have worked with the Nordic Fest Board on this proposal and are supportive of the proposed change.

Kristina Wiltgen, Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce Director, spoke in favor of the proposed change.

Peter VanderLinden, 101 Grove St, voiced concern over the level of noise as there are houses all around the area.

Nordic Fest representatives responded saying there has always been an entertainment tent at this location. Noise won't be any louder and will conclude by 10 pm.

Kate Rattenborg, 813 Ridge Road, voiced serious concerns about the beer garden being located here. Does not believe alcohol consumption should be encouraged in this area given the non-profit booths located there.

Paul Scott, 405 E. Broadway, stated he wants Nordic Fest to be successful and commends Vesterheim for wanting to make this work. However, he recently wrote an article calling it the "worst idea of 2019". All comments to him have been in support of that statement. Believes Nordic Fest could have taken this somewhere else more appropriate.

Motion by Luse, second by Schissel, to approve the Nordic Fest Special Event Application. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Schissel, second by Hadley, to approve the State Historical Society's Certified Local Government Annual Report submitted by Decorah Historic Preservation Commission and authorize the Mayor to sign. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Carlson, second by Luse, to approve Resolution 3055 setting April 6, 2020, 5:45 pm. As the date and time for a public hearing on the plans, specs, form of contract and consideration of bids. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hadley, second by Carlson, to approve Resolution 3056 approving the 2020 Winneshiek co. Multi-Jurisdiction (MJ-9) Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Short discussion was held on the preliminary ordinance establishing the Decorah Sustainability Commission. Revised ordinance will be considered at a future council meeting.

Motion by Carlson, second by Hadley, to approve the Mayor re-appointment of Steve Luse to the SSMID Board. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr.